

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE BILL ANALYSIS

AMENDMENT DATE: 05/10/2012
POSITION: Neutral

BILL NUMBER: AB 1928
AUTHOR: Cook, Paul

BILL SUMMARY: Foster homes: residential capacity

This bill would clarify existing law regarding the number of foster care children, both with and without special health care needs, that may reside in a specialized foster care home. Specifically, this bill would allow a specialized foster care home to serve two foster youth with special health care needs, or three youth with special health care needs if certain criteria are met, up to a total of six children including all biological, adoptive, foster care, and guardianship youth.

FISCAL SUMMARY

This bill would result in no additional costs for the state. Foster care administration and placement costs were fully realigned as part of 2011 Realignment. This bill's cost to counties would likely be minimal because its provisions would clarify that counties have the authority to place foster youth, either with or without specialized health care needs, in a specialized foster care home as specified.

COMMENTS

The Department of Finance is neutral on this bill given that its provisions would clarify existing law, would not result in additional costs to counties, and would not limit counties' flexibility to administer the foster care program. This bill would affect the foster care program and foster care administration, for which fiscal responsibility was shifted to counties as part of 2011 Realignment.

A specialized foster care home is a foster family home, certified family home, or small family home where the foster parents reside in the home and have been trained to provide specialized in-home health care to foster children. This bill would clarify that a specialized foster care home may serve two youth, or three youth if certain criteria are met, with specialized health care needs and can serve up to a total of six youth including all biological, adoptive, foster care, and guardianship youth. According to the author's office, several counties have been denying placement of foster youth, both with and without specialized health care needs, in specialized foster care homes due to some counties' interpretation of current law that these homes could only serve two youth, or sometimes three youth if certain criteria were met, regardless of the health care condition of the youth or if these youth were biological, adoptive, foster care, or guardianship children.

Analyst/Principal (0512) T.Calvert	Date	Program Budget Manager Ken DaRosa	Date
Department Deputy Director		Date	
Governor's Office:	By:	Date:	Position Approved _____ Position Disapproved _____
BILL ANALYSIS			Form DF-43 (Rev 03/95 Buff)

AUTHOR

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Code/Department Agency or Revenue Type	SO	(Fiscal Impact by Fiscal Year)							
	LA	(Dollars in Thousands)							
	CO	PROP					Fund		
	RV	98	FC	2011-2012	FC	2012-2013	FC	2013-2014	Code
5180/Social Svcs	SO	No		----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	----		0001
5196/St-LC 2011	LA	No		----	No/Minor	Fiscal Impact	----		3171
<u>Fund Code</u>	<u>Title</u>								
0001	General Fund								
3171	Local Revenue Fund 2011								